

does not care if the integrity of our judicial system is violated, that obstruction of justice and lying under oath is okay if it is done by a Democrat? Am I to conclude that the President is in fact above the law because the Dow Jones is doing great?

Where are your outraged voices, Democrats? Your silence speaks volumes.

DISASTER IN THE DOMESTIC OIL PATCH

(Mr. WATKINS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WATKINS. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor today to speak out on a situation that is vital to the security of this Nation of ours. An emergency exists, a disaster exists in our domestic oil patch. Oil prices have dropped below \$12 a barrel and soon will be below \$10 a barrel. These are the lowest prices, the newspapers say, in over 10 years. When adjusted for inflation, it is down below the 1973 shock. Oil production in Oklahoma is at the lowest level since 1914. While Saudi Arabia and Venezuela are playing Russian roulette with each other in a price war, they are killing the small oil producer in the United States and killing our independence from foreign oil.

At present we are importing approximately 60 percent of our oil in this country from Saudi Arabia and Venezuela. The remaining 40 percent is produced mostly by domestically small, marginal wells. These small marginal wells are in jeopardy.

We must enact an emergency package in 1998 and put a long-term energy policy in for this country. Our National security depends on such action.

TAX CODE TERMINATION ACT

(Mr. LARGENT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LARGENT. Mr. Speaker, it is that time of year. The trees are budding, flowers are blooming, and tax accountants and attorneys are sharpening their pencils. That is right. It is the tax preparation season. April 15 is just around the corner. Taxpayers everywhere are pulling their hair out trying to decipher this year's Tax Code. They are not alone. Even the paid professional tax preparers do not understand the Tax Code, and neither do the 110,000 employees at the Internal Revenue Service who are paid \$9.8 billion to implement the Tax Code.

What is Washington's response? At best they talk a good game. They say we should scrap the Code, use it as an applause line at political functions, and get a standing ovation when they say it.

It is springtime. It is time for new beginnings. Let us begin by implementing a new Tax Code. Let us say adios to

the Tax Code in 2001 and join 190 Members of Congress who have signed on to pass H.R. 3097, the Tax Code Termination Act.

NATIONAL AGRICULTURE DAY

(Mr. CHAMBLISS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. Speaker, March 20, 1998 is National Agriculture Day across this country. It is fitting on such a day to thank the farming families who work hard every day to produce the finest food and fiber in the world. Our country's entire farming community deserves a pat on the back for a job well done.

Despite highly unusual weather patterns that adversely impacted farming communities around the country, our farmers remain optimistic, and the American Farm Bureau reports that supermarket prices have fallen for the second consecutive quarter.

Georgia's farmers have stood up to the worst El Nino had to offer. It is now imperative that the Federal Government extend relief to those folks in disaster areas. In addition to this natural disaster, crop insurance has failed to honor the commitment to provide a safety net to our Nation's farmers facing extreme conditions and crop losses.

Georgia's farmers not only help the U.S. produce the highest quality, most affordable food in the world, but their contribution to our local communities is overwhelming. Let us acknowledge the farmer on National Ag Day by recognizing that they deserve as much as they provide.

Finally, as you sit down to supper tonight, take a moment to thank the folks that made it possible, the American farmer. They deserve it.

□ 1030

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2870, TROPICAL FOREST CONSERVATION ACT OF 1998

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 388 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 388

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 1(b) of rule XXIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2870) to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to facilitate protection of tropical forests through debt reduction with developing countries with tropical forests. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on International Relations. After general debate the bill shall be

considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. It shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on International Relations now printed in the bill. The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read. During consideration of the bill for amendment, the chairman of the Committee of the Whole may accord priority in recognition on the basis of whether the Member offering an amendment has caused it to be printed in the portion of the Congressional Record designated for that purpose in clause 6 of rule XXIII. Amendments so printed shall be considered as read. The chairman of the Committee of the Whole may: (1) postpone until a time during further consideration in the Committee of the Whole a request for a recorded vote on any amendment; and (2) reduce to five minutes the minimum time for electronic voting on any postponed question that follows another electronic vote without intervening business, provided that the minimum time for electronic voting on the first in any series of questions shall be 15 minutes. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. Any Member may demand a separate vote in the House on any amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole to the bill or to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). The gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) is recognized for 1 hour.

(Mr. HASTINGS of Washington asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, for the purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HALL), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 388 is an open rule providing for the consideration of H.R. 2870, the Tropical Forest Protection Act of 1998. The rule provides 1 hour of general debate, equally divided between the Chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on International Relations.

The rule makes in order as an original bill for the purpose of amendment the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute now printed in the bill, which shall be considered as read. The rule also allows the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole to accord priority and recognition to Members who have printed their amendments in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. Such amendments will be considered as read.

In addition, the rule permits the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole to postpone votes on any amendment and to reduce to 5 minutes the time for voting after the first of the series of votes, provided that the first